



Gc  
929.2  
J4544r  
1937018

M. L.

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01368 0894





Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2019

<https://archive.org/details/jensenclan00reag>



"The  
Jensen  
Clan"

P. A. Reagan

Decorah, Ia.  
1934

41304





1937018

1929.3 Keegan, J.

✓  
Censen clan. 1934

41304

Rec'd Feb 13, 1997

PICTURE

---

This book is intended as a beginning of the history of the "Jens Jensen Clan," and later editions will be made to connect the historical events. The idea was conceived at a reunion some years ago and Rev. D. A. Reagan was made historian.

---



### **Prefatory Remarks**

(by L. A. J.)

---

The Scandinavian peninsula of northern Europe has made large and valuable contributions to the citizenry of this country. The spirit of the Norsemen who embarked upon unknown seas was one of quest and adventure. The followers of Leif Ericson of Ståvanger, Norway, who first set foot on the American continent are many: among them are the subjects of this sketch which is dedicated to the memory of "Jens Jensen" and his lineal descendants and it is the profound hope that this history may be perpetuated throughout the centuries by oncoming generations.

A vote of thanks and gratitude is given to Rev. Daniel Reagan, who gave of his time and services in compiling the events and procuring the data for the biographical sketch of his foster grandfather: he did his work well and delivered the manuscript a few weeks before his earthly departure.

In honor to the memory of a Christian father and mother their descendants have resolved to meet the last Sunday in July in each year at the place selected, for social reminiscence and to pledge fealty to their God and to their country.







Jens Jensen and Mary O. Jensen, taken a few years before the death of Mother Jensen in 1895.





## The Jensen Clan

---

The progenitor of the Jensen Clan, Jens Jensen, was born July 30, 1814, on the farm Aas in Strand, near the city of Stavanger, southwest Norway, on Buknefjord. Stavanger was at that time no mean city, having a population of about twenty-four thousand, whose chief industries were lumbering and fishing, and where there is a cathedral dating back into the eleventh century. Here he spent his youth and early manhood.

At the age of 22 he married Mrs. Bertha Helland, a widow with three small children, whose husband had drowned while on a fishing expedition. The widow's maiden name was Strand. Her brother was the father of the Strands in this country known to this clan.

After his marriage Mr. Jensen continued to live in Norway for about ten years, or until 1846, when he emigrated with his wife and young family consisting of five children, to America, taking the canal route to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Unfortunately, the family arrived just at the time of the cholera plague. And, almost before the truth could be realized, the wife and three of the children were swept from him by the dread disease, leaving him with two little ones to care for. The three children by his wife's former marriage had been left in the old country. A stranger in the city, and almost penniless, his sorrow can only be imagined. However, with undaunted courage, he obtained work at Green Bay, Wisconsin, and later went to Chicago and took a position in a lumberyard as second man. He was later attracted to the early Scandinavian settlements in the Fox River Valley about Mendota and Leland in La Salle county, Illinois. And there in 1850 he met and married Mary O. Hilskaar, a young woman 21 years of age, born at Sogn-Dal, Bergens Amt, Norway, July 29, 1829. They lived near Indian Creek and farmed for six years. Martin, Ole, Peter, and Bertha were born there. In 1859 they, with Bertha and Lewis, children by the former marriage, in the spirit of true pioneers, came to Rock Creek, Mitchell county, Iowa, settling on a farm where they lived for twelve years and where Ben, Rachel and L. A. were born. From here, still following the call of the wild, they went to Winnebago county, Iowa, in 1871, and homesteaded a splendid tract of land which he still owned under a direct patent from the Government at the time of his death. This original tract was later increased by purchase, the title to which is now held by L. A.

Both in Mitchell and in Winnebago counties he and his family suffered all the rigors and hardships of pioneer life, and many interesting anecdotes might be told of their experiences during these years on the frontier. McGregor was the nearest market for a long time, and a trip required several days with the ox team. After moving to Winnebago county, Kensett and Alden were the nearest markets until in the fall of 1879 the railroad came to Lake Mills and pioneer life for the Jensens was practically at an end.

A sample of their experiences is found in the circumstances of their coming into the state. Neighbors at Leland had accompanied the family, hauling their goods by ox teams to the river. Mr. and Mrs. Jensen walked and drove the cattle of which they had quite a number for emi-





grants. After reaching the river the friends turned back home, and the Jensens crossed by ferry to McGregor. Mr. Jensen had been out to Iowa the previous year looking over the country. He had made the trip out and back on foot, which was his usual way of travel. He had made the acquaintance of Ole H. Johnson, living at Rock Creek, Mitchell county, with whom he had arranged to meet him at McGregor and assist him in going on to Rock Creek where he hoped to settle. Mr. Johnson, however, was not there, having been detained by heavy rains and high water which had made the roads over the Wapsie country well nigh impassable. After waiting some time the Jensens became uneasy and started west on foot hoping to meet Mr. Johnson. But there were only trails for roads and the two missed each other, passing somewhere perhaps a mile or two apart. So the entire trip from the river to the Rock Creek settlement was made on foot, Mrs. Jensen carrying a baby only a few months old. The first year at Rock Creek was rigorous. The settlers got short of food, the snow was so deep that they could not get to market. They had to divide rations until food could be obtained from McGregor, the nearest market.

June 9, 1895, he was again left to sorrow by the death of his faithful wife who was the mother of ten children. A year later, still mourning her taking away, and feeling the need of a change of scenes, he decided upon a visit to the rugged hills of his fatherland; and although at that time 81 years of age, and against the protests of his children, he made the journey, spent a few months among the scenes of his boyhood days, and returned successfully to his Iowa home.

Father Jensen passed to his reward February 25, 1906, mother Jensen having preceded him on June 9, 1895. Both were buried in the north Lutheran cemetery in Lake Mills, Iowa. Of the ten children born to this union four sons are still living: Ole B., Peter, Lake Mills, Iowa; Ben of Minnesota, and L. A., Forest City, Iowa. Mr. Jensen was the father of 15 children, five of whom were by his first wife and ten by his second.

### The Deceased

The three step-children of Mr. Jensen have all died. They came to this country together, stopping first at Leland, Illinois, in 1854. Henry P. Holland Sr. later went to Fillmore county, Minnesota, where he married and engaged in farming. His family consists of three sons, Michael, Peter and Thomas; and four daughters, Christina, Mary, Hannah and Tillie, of whom Michael and Hannah are dead. He passed away about 1912 at Whalan, Minnesota.

Henry P. Holland Junior was born August 22, 1834, died December 24, 1910, being at the time of his death 76 years, 4 months and 2 days old. He came to this country in 1854, landing in Illinois, later moving to Fillmore county, Minnesota, in 1861, where he was married in 1864 to Miss Betsy Anderson. They removed to Winnebago county, Iowa, in 1877. To this union eleven children were born, seven of whom were living at the time of his death. There were seven sons: Ludwick, Albert, Cleophas, Helmer, Claud, Stanford and Oscar. There were four daughters: Bettina, Christina, Emma and Louisa.

In June, 1861, Henry heard the call of his adopted country for soldiers brave and enlisted as a private in Company A, Second Regiment of the Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, serving his country well. In August, 1862, he was honorably discharged owing to disability. In 1864 he was





appointed Lieutenant Colonel in the State Militia, which office he filled with honor to himself and to his state alike.

Christina P. Holland was born April 3, 1836, and died at Nora Springs, Iowa, June 22, 1918, aged 82 years, 2 months and 19 days. She emigrated to America when she was 18 years of age, settling at Leland, Illinois about 1854. She was married to Martin V. Reagan August 2, 1856. They had seven children, five sons and two daughters, all of whom are still living: Ella, Mrs. J. A. Hefner, Nora Springs, Iowa; Charles H., Fort Dodge, Iowa; Daniel, Nora Springs, Iowa; Paul, Saint Paul, Minnesota; Albert, Pasadena, California; Louis, Leavenworth, Washington, and May, Mrs. A. M. Turner, Cassville, Missouri.

There is an incident in the girlhood of Christina P. Holland which is interesting in itself and serves to illustrate the habits and customs of the country people at the time the story of our clan began. It was the custom to send the flocks and herds each spring up onto the uplands among the hills for pasture during the summer. The younger women and girls of the families went to take care of the stock and make the butter and cheese which was marketed in the fall. There was among the sheep which Christina watched a large ram with great horns. He had a special dislike for women and they were terribly afraid of him. One day, more for sport than anything else, Christina spread her apron over a huge rock and withdrew to a safe distance to watch results. The ram backed off and came at the rock with tremendous force. He shook his head and backed up for another blow. This time he was no more successful than at first, but he repeated the attack until he fell dead.

This incident reminds us of the familiar song which runs about as follows:

For nu fekt Jeg en Vane,  
Ud paa Saetre til hu Hanna,  
Og til dit skal Jeg vandre  
Til verendra Lordags Qvel.

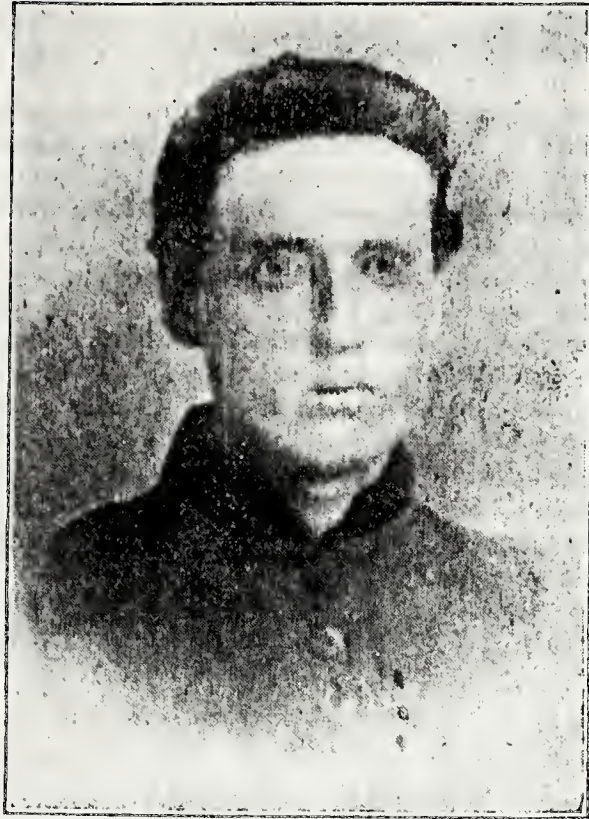
The five children by the first marriage have also passed away. Three died at Milwaukee at the time of their mother's death. Two, Bertha and Louis, survived.

Bertha Jensen, daughter of Jens and Bertha Holland Jensen, was born near Stavanger, Norway, April 19, 1838. She came to this country with her father and mother at the age of 8. She accompanied her father until he came to Mitchell county, Iowa, in 1858. The year after her arrival here she was married to Ole H. Johnson. They had ten children, five of whom are still living: Lauritz, John, Carl, Gunhild and Olea, all of whom live in or near Osage. She died March 17, 1925, at the age of 87.

Lars Jensen, commonly known as Lou, the only son by the first marriage who grew to manhood, was born at Stavanger, Norway, in 1842, came to America with his father and mother, accompanied his father to Mitchell county in 1858. In August, 1863 he enlisted in Company K, 27th Iowa, under Captain T. C. Granger and Colonel Gilbert. His health soon failed and he was in the army less than a year. Returning home he lingered on until 1869 when he died in Mitchell county, Iowa.

Of the ten children by the second marriage three sons died in infancy or at a very early age. Rachael was born March 12, 1864, in





Louis Jensen, Co. "K" 27th Iowa Vol. Infantry, oldest son, who gave his life for the cause in the civil war



Mrs. O. H. Johnson, oldest daughter, who died at Osage in 1925







Mitchell county, Iowa, and accompanied her parents to Winnebago county in 1871, and there she was married June 17, 1882, to Eli Charlson. Nine children were born to them, five of whom, Ella, Bertha, Selma, Eva and Hazel were living at the time of her death which occurred February 16, 1916.

Bertha Maria, the older daughter, was born April 9, 1859, in La Salle county, Illinois, near the town of Leland, in the community called at that time the Indian Creek settlement. The following summer her parents moved to Mitchell county, Iowa, and located in the Rock Creek settlement founded by the Rev. Clausen. She went with her parents to Winnebago county where she grew to womanhood. She was confirmed April 6, 1875, by Rev. T. A. Torgeson in the old brick school house as East Temple, then located north of the site where the Winnebago church now stands. At that time confirmation services were the big thing in the church calendar, and a few of the surviving pioneers recall that day when the throng was so great that the wall of the school house gave way and the audience vacated the room leaving the preacher and the class nearly alone. On February 17, 1877, she was united in marriage to C. N. Charlson. She was the mother of eleven children, two daughters, Ella and Wilma, preceded her in death, both being stricken after reaching the ages of 19 and 16 respectively. The other nine children are: Jens, Martin, Christ, Ole, Richard, Lester, Clara, Nels and Sam.

---

### MARTIN JENSEN and Children

---

Martin, oldest son of Jens and Mary Hilskaar Jensen, was born at Leland, Illinois, July 14, 1852. He moved with the family to Mitchell county, Iowa, in 1858. Later he removed to a farm in Yellow Medicine county, Minnesota, where he and the family lived until 1916 when they changed their residence to Porter, Minnesota. Some years ago he went west because of poor health.

In 1875 he was wedded to Miss Mary Hanson of Mitchell county. They were blessed with nine children, two died in infancy, and seven of whom survive their parents. His wife passed on in 1916. The children living are: Mrs. Carl Iverson, Long Beach, California; Mrs. Adolph C. Westby, Long Beach; Mrs. Elmer Erickson, Windham, Montana; Ebert Jensen, Gary, South Dakota; Henry Jensen, Canby, Minnesota; Jesse of Gary, South Dakota; and Guy Jensen of Long Beach.

He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Carl Iverson, in Long Beach, September 27, 1931, and was buried at Canby, Minnesota, October 4.

### Characterization

Jens Jensen was strong physically, capable of great endurance and well adapted to the hardships of pioneer life. He was essentially a trail blazer, ever pushing his way farther to the west. Although 92 years of age he retained his faculties to a remarkable degree. During the last two years of his life he became quite feeble, and the last six months he was confined to his bed at the home of Mrs. C. N. Charlson where he died. Rev. N. C. Brun conducted the funeral services and paid a fitting





tribute to the memory of a worthy pioneer and one of God's patriarchs. Like Abraham of old who heard the call of God to go out from his home in Ur of the Chaldees into a land he knew not and obeyed the call, so he responded to an inner urge for adventure and set forth to try his fortunes in a strange land, and through the providence of God became the progenitor of a great people. At the time of his death he had 61 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

He was baptized and confirmed a Lutheran, and always affiliated with the Lutheran church, but was very liberal when it came to denominational lines. He was a warm admirer of the United Brethren Church, and many of their early missionaries found a welcome home in his house, and many religious meetings were held in the old house that burned in 1916. The Methodists frequently held services in that house before the schoolhouse was built, and many of the early settlers who have now passed on traced their conversion to the time of meetings held in the old house on the farm.

Father Jensen never attained great success in accumulating worldly wealth or riches, but the family always had enough to eat and wear and never suffered privation. He lived a clean, Christian life, was always ready to entertain strangers, was generous to the wayfarer, and many are those who have found shelter under his roof and entertainment in his home while locating in the vicinity. His faith was in Jesus Christ. He believed and lived in that faith, and in that faith he died. He had no interest in creeds and isms, but based his belief in Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life. And if the other denominations believed in Jesus, that would mean their salvation. He read a chapter every morning from the Bible, and he, like mother, would always get the work done on Saturday, and Sunday was sacred. His wife was a great help to the pioneers. She attended every confinement case within three or four miles around, served as undertaker, laying out the dead, and was always called in sickness. Her patience and consoling assurance in times of distress and sickness was invaluable to the frontier people. She lived to serve and to sacrifice. One of the sons expresses the sentiments of all when he says "I think of their faith in God established like the mountains, with conscience pure, with clean and irreproachable lives. What a debt we owe to our ancestry!"

L. A. writes: "Father believed in our Government. In politics, he was a Republican, largely because it was the party of freedom and opposed to slavery. On landing in this country he wanted to become naturalized as soon as possible. He subscribed for papers in the American language, taught himself to read, and wanted his children to learn about our Government. He was well posted in political affairs, read the editorials of Colonel Chase in the local county-seat paper, and was ahead of his boys when it came to a knowledge of Congress and the Legislature. He cast his first ballot for John C. Fremont for President, the first Republican nominee, and he has voted the Republican ticket at every election since. We also had in the early days the "Religious Telescope" and the Missionary publications of the Brethren Church published at Dayton, Ohio. He had the picture of William Otterbein, founder of the Brethren Church. This he had framed, and it was given to Brother Peter, who still has it. Blessed be their memory!"

The words of Will Carlton in the poem entitled "The Old Pioneer" are so applicable to the founder of this clan that they are adopted as expressing the sentiments of every member.



When the springtime touch is lightest,  
When the summer eyes are brightest;  
Or the autumn sings most dear;  
When the winter's hair is whitest,  
Sleep, old pioneer!

Safe beneath the sheltering soil  
Late enough you crept,  
You were weary of the toil  
Long before you slept.  
Well you paid for every blessing,  
Bought with grief each day of cheer,  
Nature's arm around you pressing,  
Nature's lips your brow caressing,  
Sleep, old pioneer!

When the hill of toil is steepest,  
When the forest frown was deepest,  
Poor, but young, you hastened here;  
Came when solid hope was cheapest,  
Came a pioneer;

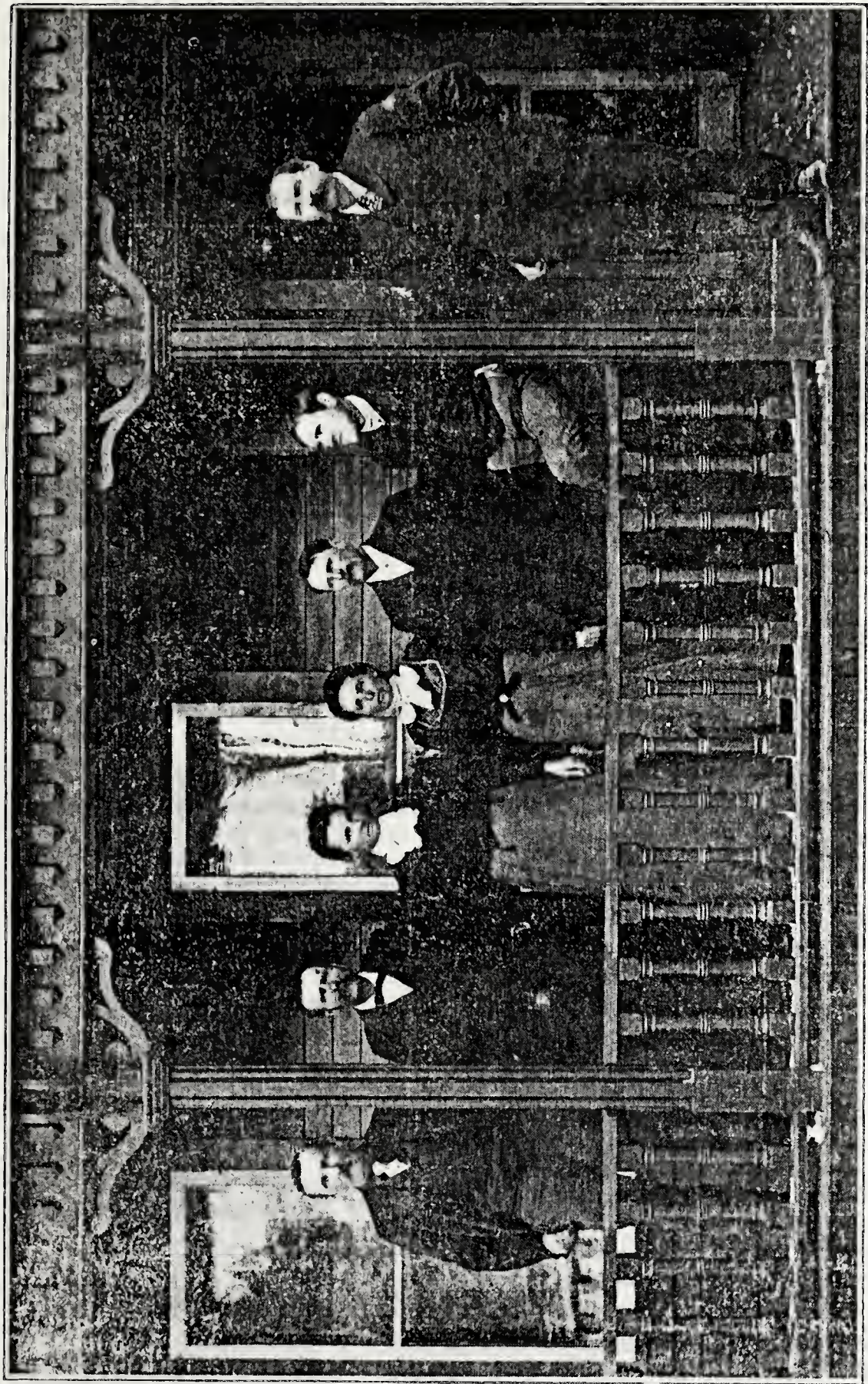
Made the western jungle view  
Civilization's charms;  
Snatched a home for yours and you  
From the lean tree arms.  
Toil has never ceased to doubt you  
Progress's path you helped to clear,  
But today forgets about you  
And the world rides on without you,  
Sleep, old pioneer!

Careless crowds go daily past you,  
Where their future fate has cast you,  
Leaving not a sigh or tear;  
And your wonder-works outlast you,  
Brave old pioneer!

Little care the selfish throng  
Where your heart is hid,  
Though they thrive upon the strong,  
Resolute work it did.  
But our memory eyes have found you,  
And we hold you grandly dear,  
With no work-day's woes to wound you,  
With the peace of God around you,  
Sleep, old pioneer!







The seven children of the second marriage living in 1909, taken from the porch of the home of O. B. Jensen.







## OLE B. JENSEN

---

Ole Berner Jensen, second son of Jens and Mary Jensen, was born May 15, 1854, at Leland, Illinois. He came with the family to Iowa in 1858. He lived in Mitchell county for a number of years, then went to Winnebago county and engaged in farming. January 13, 1893, he married Malena Solomonson, a native of Winneshiek county, Iowa. To them were born seven children, only three of whom are living. Olga Clarissa, born October 22, 1899, graduated from Lake Mills High School in 1917, and from State University in 1922. Married November 14, 1922, to Mark Joseph McAvoy, who was born at Geneseo, Illinois, graduated from Iowa State University, College of Dentistry. Then engaged in practice of dentistry in Cedar Rapids; from there he moved his office in the summer of 1931 to Kimballton, Iowa, which is their present address.

Martha Maria, born February 14, 1908, at Lake Mills, Iowa. Graduated from high school in 1925, from Waldorf Junior College in 1927. Employed by the Iowa State Banking department, later by the Western Electric Company of Chicago.

Olive Josephine, born March 14, 1912, graduated from Lake Mills High School in 1930; student at State College, Ames, Iowa, preparing to become dietitian.

---

## PETER J. JENSEN and Children

---

Peter was the third son of Jens Jensen and his second wife, Mary Hilskaar. He was born in La Salle county, Illinois, February 27, 1857, and when he was about a year old the family moved to Mitchell county, Iowa. In 1871 when Peter was thirteen years old they moved to Winnebago county where he has continued to live until the present time. December 6, 1884 he married Elizabeth Lund, a neighbor girl, whose birthplace was Stjernerø, Stavanger, Norway. She was born February 4, 1867, and died July 31, 1922.

Their children are:

Jesse Oscar	Logan Bertinus
Sadie Odia	Berdie Evelyn
Elmer James	Mark Obert
Minnie Maria	Alice Lillian Mabel
Palmer Elsworth	Joy Lloyd Walter

Jesse Oscar was born November 1, 1885, has never been married, and has been engaged in the garage business in Lake Mills, Iowa.

Sadie Odia was born January 26, 1888, married Elmer Anderson December 4, 1906. They have no children, and are engaged in the general merchandise business in Lake Mills.

Elmer James was born March 13, 1890, married Cora Peterson January 21, 1920. They are farming in Winnebago county. Their children are:



Elenor Paulina, born December 26, 1920, died December 30, 1920.  
Ernest, born December 19, 1921, died December 21, 1921.  
Evelyn Mae, born January 19, 1923.  
Marjorie Elaine, born January 14, 1930.

Minnie Marie, daughter of Peter and Elizabeth Lund Jensen, was born February 26, 1892, married William Otterstein September 1, 1922. He is trucking wherever he finds work. They have no children.

Palmer Elsworth was born March 31, 1894, married Hattie Johnson July 15, 1922. Palmer served in the World War and was gassed while in action in the front ranks in France. His occupation is that of a disabled soldier in Winnebago county. They have two children: Gelaine Evelyn Palma, born January 1, 1923; Phyllis Harriette, born October 18, 1925.

Logan Bertinus was born October 9, 1896, married Lucille Platte March 25, 1920. He is patrolman on State Highway No. 15, and lives in Lake Mills. They have four children living; two died in infancy. The living are:

Marion Elizabeth, born August 28, 1923.  
Wayne Percel, born September 8, 1926.  
Junior Le Roy, born September 5, 1928.  
Dean Lincoln, born February 12, 1930.

Berdie Evelyn was born September 20, 1898, is unmarried, received her B. A. from State Teachers College at Cedar Falls, and follows the profession of teaching. She has held a position in the schools in Iowa Falls.

Mark Obert, born July 18, 1901, married Pearl Storby October 24, 1920. He is a minister, devoting his time to preaching the Gospel in Minnesota. Their children are:

Eileen Thera, born September 6, 1922.  
Gladys La Vonne, born September 25, 1925.  
Fay Lorraine, born April 16, 1927.  
Paul Mark, born January 10, 1930.

Alice Lillian Mabel, born September 28, 1906, married Fred Kahler June 22, 1930. He is employed at the Decker Packing Company at Mason City, Iowa.

Joy Lloyd Walter, born July 26, 1910, unmarried, employed as a clerk in Lake Mills.

---

### JENS BERTINUS JENSEN

---

Jens Bertinus, commonly called Ben, was born March 2, 1862, in Mitchell county, Iowa, went with the family in 1871 to Winnebago county where he grew to manhood and engaged in various occupations. He was for 11 years section foreman on the M. & St. L. Railroad. He is now farming in Minnesota. He was married to Martha Elaine Martin, who died August 19, 1886. Had no children. Married Julia Rusley in 1891, who died in 1896. Married March 24, 1901 to Ella Anderson. They have two sons: Joseph Arnold, born June 5, 1902; Elmer Benja-





min, born July 16, 1911. Joseph Arnold was married July 3, 1927. They have one son, Stanley Arnold, born September 31, 1928. Lives at Janesville, Wisconsin. Benjamin was married August 30, 1930, to Emma Scheiffelbein. They live near Forest City.

---

### L. A. JENSEN

---

L. A. Jensen was born in Mitchell county, Iowa, May 21, 1869. Married to Mary Sheldon of Badger, Iowa. They are the parents of five children:

Jense Marcellus  
Christine

Mary Lydia  
Rachael Bertha Andrina  
Constance Judith

L. A. studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1904. Served as Clerk of the District Court in Winnebago county for eight years, and as County Attorney for six years. Also served as member of the Iowa State Board of Parole for six years. He is a member of the State Bar Association, The American Bar Association, The Commercial Law League of America, the Grant Club of Des Moines, the Lions International Club of Forest City, and the Forest City Golf and Country Club. He is at present conducting a Law and Abstract office in Forest City.

#### His Children

Jense Marcellus, graduate of the Forest City High School and of Waldorf College; LL. B. Drake University; admitted to Bar of Iowa 1915, to Bar of Tennessee 1925; to Bar of Illinois 1929. He is affiliated with the Sigma Alpha Epsilon National Fraternity, and Phi Alpha Delta National Law Fraternity, and member of Nordic Law Club of Chicago, and Hamilton Republican Club of Chicago. Served as mayor of Buffalo Center, Iowa, and as County Attorney of Wright county. At present he is employed in the Guaranty Department of the Chicago Title and Trust Company of Chicago, as Examiner of Titles. He married Mabel West of State Center, Iowa. They have three children: Marjorie, Mary Jane, and Louise.

Christine married John R. Morton, whose profession is mining engineer. She is a graduate of the Forest City High School; A. B. St. Olaf College; and graduate of Capitol City Commercial College; associated with the Alpha Delta Sorority at College. Instructor in high school before marriage.

Lydia Mary is a graduate of Forest City High School, of Waldorf College, and has attended State Teachers' College at Cedar Falls for two years; graduate of Drake University with the degree of B. S., specializing in Primary and Kindergarten work; is a member of Phi Mu Gamma National Sorority. Since her graduation she has been instructor in Primary and Kindergarten departments in schools.

Rachel Bertha Andrina Jensen, graduate of Forest City High School; A. B. St. Olaf College; B. M. Drake University; graduate work University of Chicago and New England Conservatory of Music, Boston. Instructor in History and French and later in Music; affiliated with Phi Omega Pi, National Sorority.





Constance Judith Jensen, graduate of Forest City High School and Waldorf College; A. B. Drake University; graduate with B. E. degree in Emerson College of Oratory, Boston; Clerk, Iowa State Senate, 1924-25; instructor in English and teacher of Dramatics in Waldorf College in 1930 and 1931. Affiliated with Phi Mu Gamma National Sorority. Member Drama Club, Drake University.

---

### BERTHA MARIE JENSEN

---

Bertha was born April 9, 1859. She was married to C. N. Charlson at Lake Mills February 13, 1877, and died May 11, 1925. Her children and their families are as follows:

Christian C., born March 30, 1885; married Emma Olson March 25, 1908. They have three children living. They are all at home on a farm five miles south west of Lake Mills. Their names are: Christian Benjamin, Carroll Edward Irving and Joseph Wilfred. Three children are dead: Bernette Helen, died September 14, 1917; one child, a girl, died in infancy, December 25, 1910; Johannes Harold, died April 9, 1904. The wife and mother passed away in February, 1930.

Clara Maria, born October 11, 1895, married Gilbert Thompson June 14, 1916. They live on a farm about a mile and a half northeast of Leland. They have seven children:

Alica Bertha  
Edith Anita Winnefred  
Catharine Helen  
Marcia Geneva

Gerald Everett  
Margaret Anne  
Gretchen Theresa  
Herbert Cecil

Ella Josephine, born December 29, 1897, married Oscar Dahlen October 31, 1906, died September 11, 1907. They had one child named Adolph Lars, born September 5, 1907, died in infancy.

Lester Bernhard, born August 1, 1904, married Olive Fae Ashpole June 25, 1925. They have three children: Donald Franklin, Vivian Marie and Dorothy Ann. The mother is a member of the Methodist church and a graduate of the Thompson High School.

Richard Elmer, born October 2, 1898, married Hilda Amanda Rygh May 10, 1924. They are farming at Blair, Wisconsin.

Jens, born November 7, 1877, married Mattie Twito November 30, 1899. Their children are: Chester Theron, a student at Waldorf College, Forest City; now a machinist on Battleship Birmingham; Milton Bernhard, married to Ruth Rusley November 27, 1930. They are farming at Scarville, Iowa. Jens Melvin, married Beatrice Quisling July 2, 1927. They are farming near Lake Mills. They have one son, Marven Marlo. Ella Josephine is at home; Margaret Adeline is a graduate of Waldorf College; Wilford Le Roy, at home; Rachel Burnette, Harrauld Orion and Reuben Irving are in High School; Mildred Thelma is in the grade school at home.

Nels, born April 26, 1880, married to Sarina Tisdell February 15, 1899. Following are the names of their children with dates of their birth:





Conrad Leslie, November 13, 1899  
Lewis Carlyle, July 16, 1901  
Raymond Burton, July 3, 1903  
Bernice Rosetta, August 27, 1905  
Ella Shodine, December 7, 1910  
Nora Serina, December 7, 1910  
Nels Sumner, April 6, 1913  
Rachel Carmen, October 4, 1915  
Wallace Royden, March 3, 1920  
Mary Ann Jeanette, December 16, 1917  
Infant died, born August 11, 1907

The three oldest boys are farming near Windmere, North Dakota. Ella is taking nurse's training at Jamestown, North Dakota.

Ole Melvin Leonard, born April 26, 1893, married to Margaret Bertina Johnson May 30, 1917. They have three children:

Blanche Constance, born February 17, 1919  
Elizabeth Gladys, born August 26, 1921  
Oscar Benjamin, born February 2, 1926

Martin Eli, born 1882, married Ada Twito in 1903. They have eight children as follows: Clifford, Gilma, Edgar, Morris, Bertha, Agnes, Homer and Boyden. Clifford married Marie Langerud in 1926. They have two children, Mavis and Dolores. Gilma married Andrew Solomonson in 1925. They have two children, Geraldine and Elaine. All the rest of the children are at home. They are farming near Scarville, Iowa.

Samuel Conrad, born November 6, 1890, graduate of University of Iowa, A. B., 1915, member Delta Chi fraternity. Married Esther Catharine Meyer June 25, 1915. There are four children: Marjorie Marie, dead; William Edward, Mary Elizabeth and Alice Ann. They live at Manhattan, Kansas. He is in the Abstract and Insurance business. They are Methodists.

---

### RACHEL ELIANA JENSEN

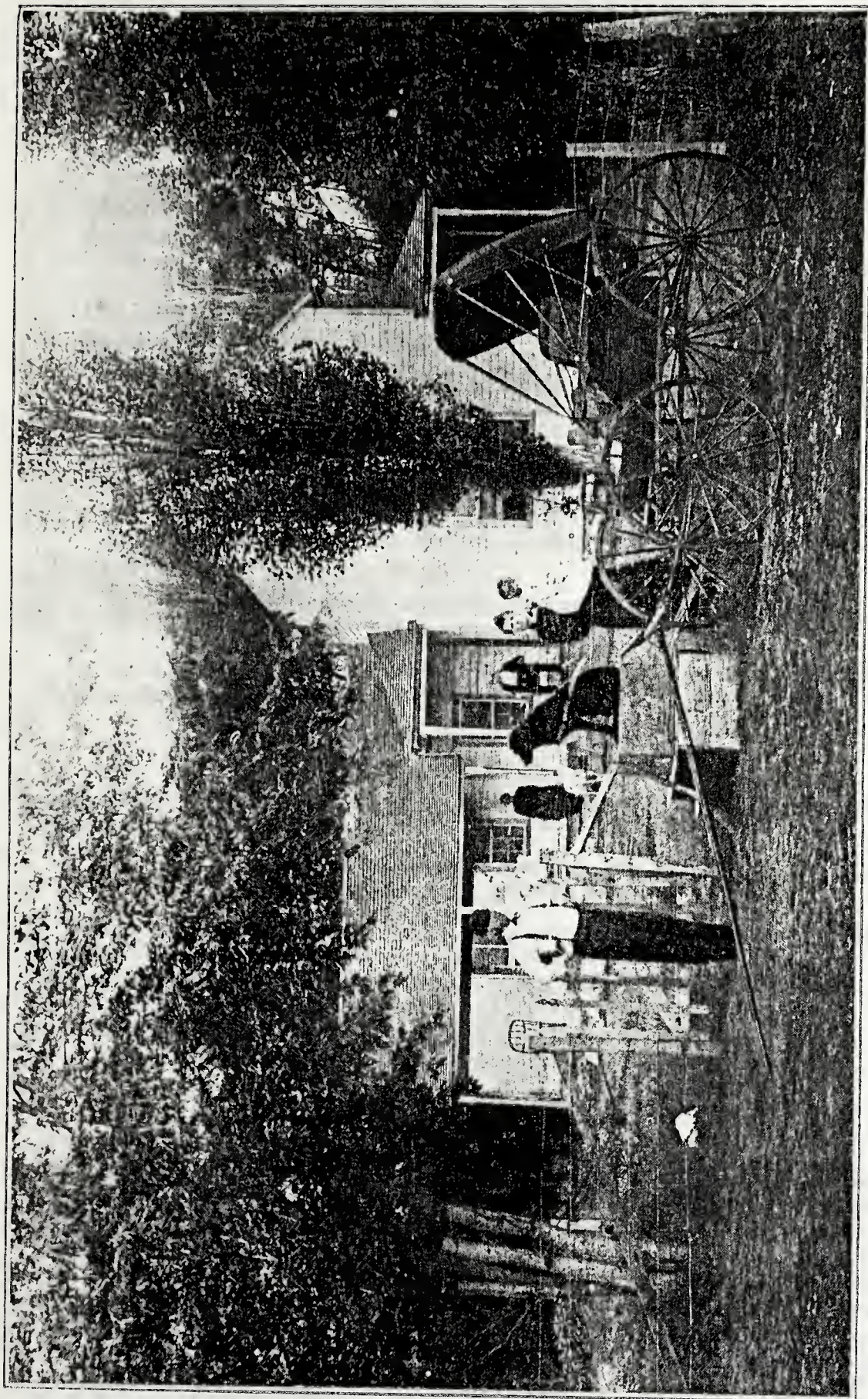
---

Rachel was the second daughter of Jens Jensen by his second marriage. She was born in Mitchell county, Iowa, March 12, 1864. In 1871 she went with her parents to Winnebago county where she attended the public school and lived at home until the time of her marriage to Nels Eli Charlson June 17, 1882. Her husband was a native of Wisconsin, having been born at Primrose, Dane county, of that state, January 8, 1838, and came to Winnebago county in the summer of 1865, immediately after the Civil War, where the parents settled on a homestead in Section 28, Center township, and the old log house still remains on the farm as a relic of those frontier days. He took over the farm from his parents in 1877 and continued to add to the acreage little by little until he owned four hundred acres in one body. He died February 15, 1931.

Rachel was the mother of nine children. Three, Nels, Alvin and Josie, died in infancy. Nora died December 31, 1910. The living are:







The old Jensen Homestead where the family settled in the spring of 1871, coming here from Mitchell county. The house burned in the spring of 1916; the fee title coming direct from the Government to Jens Jensen, now owned by son, L. A.





Ellen Marie, born April 4, 1887  
Nora Josephine, born December 1, 1890  
Bertha Cordelia, born February 26, 1894  
Selma Caroline, born November 4, 1897  
Rachel Evelyn, born October 4, 1900  
Hazel Elvira, born January 10, 1903

Ellen Marie married Gilbert O. Swenson June 10, 1919. Their children are:

Rhoda Sylvia, born July 20, 1920  
Oswald Earl, born February 15, 1922  
Gordon Ellsworth, born August 6, 1925  
Mildred Thelma, born February 9, 1927  
James Richard, born September 25, 1929, died November 17, 1929  
Marie Ellen, born February 20, 1931

Bertha Cordelia, a graduate of State Teachers College, married Fred G. Bliss October 25, 1919. Their children are:

Robert Charles, born July 17, 1920  
Gerald Frederick, born March 6, 1922  
Lois Bertha, born July 10, 1930

Selma Caroline married Melvin J. Bergland February 9, 1919. Their children are:

Edith Ellen, born December 9, 1919  
Marjorie Selma, born March 2, 1928

Rachel Evelyn, a graduate of Waldorf College, was married to Walter N. Bergland June 15, 1924. Their children are:

William Eugene, born October 26, 1925  
Betty Florence, born May 27, 1929

Hazel Elvira married Oscar S. Tweeten August 26, 1923. Their children are:

Rachel Ann, born February 26, 1925  
Arden Eli, born March 27, 1930

All live on farms near Lake Mills except Mrs. Bliss who lives in Lake Mills and her husband, a graduate of Iowa State College, is engaged in teaching Vocational Agriculture in the public school.

---

### BERTHA JENSEN JOHNSON

---

Bertha Jensen, daughter of Jens Jensen by his first marriage, married Ole H. Johnson of Mitchell county in 1859. He was a successful farmer and became the owner of several good farms. He was prominent in local politics and church affairs being one of the organizers of the Rock Creek Norwegian Lutheran Church of which he and his family have always been enthusiastic members. He was born September 3, 1832, at Lyche under Schollerud, Buckeruds Amt (Ringerika) Norway. He came with his parents, three sisters and three brothers, to Wisconsin in 1853. They left Drammen, Norway, in a sail boat, and as they had to provide their own food on their passage, they took with them,





beside their food, two goats to provide milk on the ocean and meat after reaching land. They came by way of Quebec and the Great Lakes. They were welcomed by friends near Albany, Wisconsin, where the mother and some of the children were allowed to make their home while the father, Helge and John H., also Olia, joined the Clausen Colony which was just leaving for Iowa where cheaper and better land could be obtained. This colony was composed of about 30 families each with its covered wagon drawn by oxen. When the caravan reached Cedar township, in Mitchell county, Helge dropped out, as he liked the country and was tired of the journey which he knew was soon to end as they knew their destination. He succeeded in getting a claim at one dollar an acre and proceeded to make his home. Ole and Lewis were left with their mother as they were able to earn some money. They were to bring the family to the new home in the spring. The mother passed away in the meantime. Ole came afoot to his father's home, having walked all the way, arriving on Christmas eve, 1853. It is thought by his daughter, Gunnil, that he carried the news of his mother's death, as there was no mail west to these parts then. His first Christmas in the new country was celebrated by helping to put doors and windows into the log house that his father was building. Rev. Clausen had erected a mill at St. Ansgar, and one of Ole's first jobs was to take care of the building while Clausen was to be away for some time. One evening he noticed a party of men by the river who appeared to be fishing. He was not sure whether they were Indians, which they looked like, or Frenchmen who pretended to be Indians. But he stayed at the mill. The next morning they came again, and demanded that he give up the mill to them. When they could not scare him away, they pointed a gun at him and fired, but it missed him by an inch, and they themselves became frightened and ran away, leaving him in possession of the mill. As his father became unable to carry on because of failing health, Ole purchased the farm, and there he spent about fifty years of his life at hard work. He died September 13, 1902, and was buried in the Lutheran cemetery near the Lutheran church which he had helped to organize. Beside the father and mother, five children rest in this cemetery. The children living are: Gunnil Bertina, born April 7, 1867; Hans Lauritz; Carl O., born August 29, 1874; John B., born July 4, 1872, and Olea, born October 9, 1882.

Gunnil Bertina was married to Carl E. Olson March 4, 1896. She was educated in the public schools, the Cedar Valley Seminary, at Osage, and the Decorah Institute. Taught in the rural schools for about ten years.

The influenza ravaged the country in 1889 and 1890 and many deaths were caused by it. Many of those who recovered never regained their normal health. Gunnil was one of these. Thinking to improve her health, in company with her sister, Helen, whose health was also impaired, she took a trip to Norway in 1890. She returned much improved in health, but Helen did not long survive. Gunnil has taken three trips to Norway and Europe since. But none of the later trips were so full of interest as that one. One reason, perhaps, being that where they visited in Norway they were the first native born Americans who had visited there.

Gunnil and her husband have retired from active business and are enjoying a happy home life and well earned rest in a comfortable home in Osage. They have two children: Cora Agatha, and Helen Charlotte.

Helen received her A. B. degree from St. Olaf College in 1930, and





took a trip that same summer with her mother to visit the native city of her father, who was born in Stockholm, October 4, 1869.

Cora Agatha Olson, daughter of Carl E. and Gunnil (Johnson) Olson, was born October 25, 1897 on the old homestead farm entered by her grandfather, Johnson. Educated in the public schools of Osage, graduating in the spring of 1916. In September, 1916, she entered St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn. After four years of faithful work she graduated, receiving the Bachelor of Arts degree. She then taught in high school at Milan and Deer Creek, Minnesota.

She was married to John J. Metzoll of Ortonville, Minnesota, June 29, 1922. The family now resides at Lakeville, Minnesota. Mr. Metzoll is agent for the C. M. & St. P. R. R. They have three children:

Doris Marie, born December 4, 1924

Inez Elaine, born May 24, 1926

John Walter, born August 31, 1928

Hans Lauritz was born on the farm in Mitchell county, May 18, 1869, married in 1893 to Carrie Peterson Alm of Orchard, Iowa. This union was blessed with three sons: H. Olvin, born June 1, 1894 in Osage; Irwin B., also born in Osage, October 6, 1895; and Newell B., born November 15, 1904 on the farm where the family now lives. The sons are unmarried, and with their father conduct a general farming business, and specialize in the breeding of full blood and high grade Holstein cattle. Irwin enlisted at Osage, February 22, 1918. Stationed at Camp Dodge until transferred to Camp Sevier, Greenville, N. C. Was cook in his company until discharged.

Carl O. was born April 29, 1874, married March 21, 1906, to Trena Sulland, who was born December 19, 1880, at Fredrikahald, Norway. She came to the United States in 1900. They have three children:

Margaret, born March 10, 1907, graduated in music from Iowa State Teachers' College, taught music one year at Floyd. Married May 2, 1931, to Arthur Soesbe, who was born September 6, 1907, at Manchester, Iowa. He is a college graduate, receiving his B. S. from Chicago. Ruth was born May 18, 1914. Graduate of State Teachers College. Conrad Sulland was born July 31, 1916.

Carl owns and has operated a good farm near Orchard. He has recently moved to Cedar Falls to educate his children.

John B. Johnson was born on the Johnson homestead in Mitchell county, July 4, 1872, married to Lena Brenden of Blanchardville, Wisconsin, May 31, 1893. She was born in Wisconsin, March 8, 1872. They have three children.

Oswald, born August 12, 1894, lives on a farm near St. Ansgar.

Bert, born June 10, 1896, lives at Waterloo.

Gladys, born September 10, 1898, lives at Charles City.

Oswald has one boy, Keith, 3 years old.

Bert has three boys, Gerald, 10 years, Dennis 7, Robert 3.

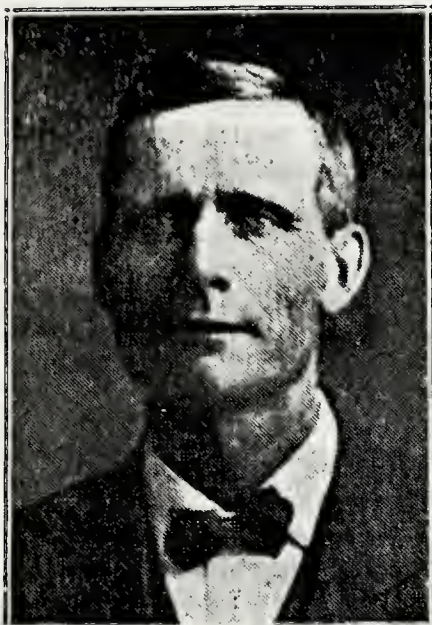
Gladys married Vern Moore, has one boy, Kenneth, 3 months old.

Olea was born on the old homestead October 9, 1882. Has six children. Married Carl Knutson, farmer near Orchard.

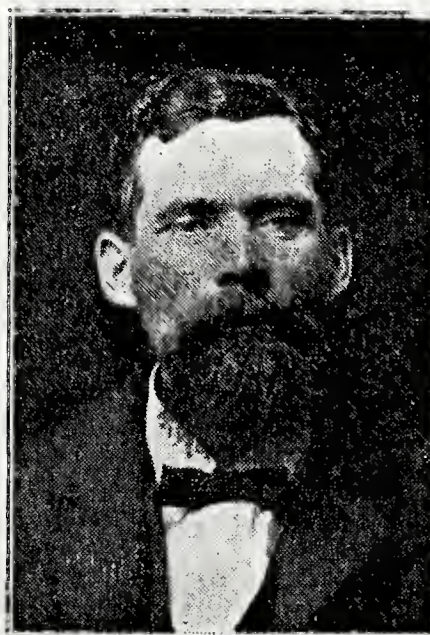
Clyde  
Russell  
Ole

Marcella  
Jewell  
Helen





N. E. Charlson, who married Rachel E.  
died February 15, 1931



C. N. Charlson, who married Bertha M.  
(most recent death) March 3, 1933





**Children of Christena P. Holland, step daughter of Jens Jensen, and  
wife of Martin Vanburen Reagan**

Bertha Emeline Reagan, born June 8, 1857, near Aurora, Illinois. When about eight years of age she came with the family to Mitchell county, Iowa. Married Lars Fingalson, a farmer, in June, 1878. To them were born three children: Chrystal Alice, born October 10, 1882; Lawrence Wilmer, born December 21, 1887, and Rosella Martina, born December 5, 1892. She lived in Mitchell county about four years after her marriage, then moved to Winnebago county where all her children were born. She was married to Jo A. Hefner, January 29, 1907, and lives at Nora Springs, Iowa.

Alice married Fred S. Furness June 19, 1901. They have one child, Rosella Verna, born May 10, 1916. She is a sophomore in the Nora Springs high school beginning this fall, 1932.

Wilmer married Anna Rethamle of Cresco, February 6, 1912. They have four children: Virgil Wilmer, born January 14, 1913; Ellsworth Lincoln, born February 12, 1915; Lawrence Elmer, born January 29, 1918; Shirley Ann, born July 16, 1924.

Alice and Wilmer live on farms near Nora Springs; Rose died August 14, 1910.

Charles Henry Reagan, born April 20, 1859, in Kane county, Illinois. Came with the family to Mitchell county, Iowa, in 1865, went to Winnebago county in 1878, taught school for several terms, engaged in several occupations, married at Leland, June, 1887, to Alice Gilchrist. They have five children: four sons and one daughter. The sons are. Le Roy, Frank, Allen and Vincent. He has been in the employ of the I. C. R. R. Company for more that 30 years in the shops at Ft. Dodge, Iowa.

Daniel Reagan, born near Leland, Illinois, July 18, 1862. Came with the family to Mitchell county, Iowa in 1865. After finishing work in the public schools of the county, he attended the Cedar Valley Seminary at Osage, graduating in 1888. Taught school and engaged in other occupations in Winnebago county. Attended Des Moines College one year. Was ordained to the Baptist Ministry at Thompson in 1898. Has held several pastorates in Iowa and Colorado. He married Mary Worth of Dow City, Iowa, June 10, 1914. In 1916 he entered the University of Chicago from which he received the degrees of A. B., A. M. and B. D., finishing in 1922 when he was 60 years old. Since leaving Chicago he has held two pastorates and is now retired, living at Nora Springs.

Paul Martin Reagan, born July 22, 1865, in Mitchell county, Iowa. Taught school and farmed in Winnebago county, married at Forest City to Myrtle Secor, May 10, 1888. They are the parents of five children: Abbie Genevieve, Mabel Marguerite, Paul David, Lois Carol and Donna Beatrice.

Abbie Genevieve, born June 29, 1889, married April 9, 1914, to D. O. Ostergren, a graduate of Minnesota State University and of the School of Dentistry of the same institution. He is practicing dentistry in St. Paul. They have one son, Daniel Eugene, born in 1915.

Mabel Marguerite was born August 9, 1891, married John Ambrosene, a contractor by trade. They live at Lake Worth, Florida. They





have two children: Vern Marshall, aged 14, and Jackie, aged seven years.

Paul David Reagan, born August 26, 1895, at Winnebago, Minnesota; married Ruth Bjork of St. Paul. He enlisted and served in the World War, was Second Lieutenant and had charge of training new recruits. After retiring from the army he engaged in banking with his father in St. Paul. He now has a position as lookout man for the Government in the Northwest.

Lois Carol, Born December 3, 1893, married James H. Buttermore. They have one son, James Ellsworth. He is now with the Transfer and Storage Company of Miami, Florida.

Donna Beatrice, born January 3, 1901, married Albert J. Conroy. Four children were born to them: Kathleen Mae, Robert Paul, Mary Victoria and David Lee. They live in Miami, Florida.

John Albert Reagan, born August 26, 1868, married Dot McLaughlin of Humboldt, Iowa. They have two children: Bruce of Pasadena, California, and Violet, married and living in St. Paul.

Albert was editor and proprietor of the Armstrong Journal for a number of years, then engaged in banking. He was President of the St. Paul National Bank, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Commercial National Bank, and President of several other banks in and around St. Paul. He has retired from active business and has his home in Pasadena, California. In 1929 he and his wife made a tour around the world.

James Louis Reagan, born October 26, 1871, married Florence Gregg, of Lake City, Iowa, in 1907. They have four boys: Russell, born May 16, 1909; James, born June 10, 1910; Paul, born June 7, 1913; Byram, born September 19, 1920. The family now lives in the state of Washington.

Cora Mae Reagan, born May 29, 1876. Married Will Hockman of Nora Springs, December 24, 1895. They farmed for two or three years then went to California on account of his failing health. They had two children: Ruth Geneve, born November 14, 1896; and Merle Wilmer, born June 3, 1900. Will S. Hockman died in Long Beach, California, February, 1902.

May was married to M. A. Turner at Nora Springs, August 25, 1903. They have three children: Gerald Marion, born May 28, 1905; Lona May, born September 17, 1907, and Sherman Albert, born June 29, 1912.

Ruth Hockman married Floyd E. Brock, December 8, 1914. They have no children. Merle was married to Ruth Brown of Nora Springs, March 19, 1914. They have two children: Ruth Virginia, born December 4, 1921, and Cora Alice, born February 19, 1923. Merle's wife died February 28, 1923. He was married again February 12, 1925 to Glea Thomas of Cassville, Missouri, where they now reside. They have three children: Christina May, born February 15, 1926; Shirley Jean, born August 26, 1927, and Merl Eugene, born November 12, 1929.

Gerald Turner married Mary Louisa Hurb of Saligman, Missouri, October 26, 1928. They have no children.

Lona Turner married A. G. Haffley August 31, 1927. They have one child: Charles Marion, born July 13, 1928.





Sherman is married and works in a bakery recently purchased by the Turners in Cassville.

Thomas Ludwig Holland, son of Henry P. Holland, was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, December 14, 1868, came to Winnebago county, Iowa, about 1876. Married November 3, 1893 to Helen Rowelson, born January 15, 1873. They have four children: Hazel Benette, born August 2, 1894; married June 5, 1928 to John William Balzar of Racine, Wisconsin.

Pearle Marguerite, born June 5, 1896, married June 15, 1920, to Edward O. Qualey. They have two children: James Edward, born May 13, 1928; Robert Holland, born July 24, 1930.

Florence Lovia, born August 25, 1898, married October 1, 1921 to Edward A. Seidel. They have three children:

Gail Margery Seidel, born July 7, 1922  
Reynor James Seidel, born February 19, 1930  
David Edward Seidel, born August 4, 1931

Lilliethe Marie Holland, born March 25, 1901. Died 1908.  
Ludwick Holland died April 3, 1912.

Louisa Holland was born September 11, 1883, in Winnebago county, Iowa. Married John Quam, a neighbor boy, born September 19, 1876. They have seven children:

Myrtle Lovia Quam, born March 1, 1903  
Burnette Henrietta, born April 1, 1906  
Laura Jane Quam, born June 15, 1909  
Henry John Quam, born July 24, 1913  
May Lois Quam, born May 18, 1916  
Louis William Stanley, born September 15, 1921  
Donald Leon Quam, born September 25, 1924

Burnette Henrietta is married and has two boys. One is six, the other was born in June, 1932.

Laura Jane Quam was married March 12, 1932 to Adam Wood.

---

#### H. P. Holland's Children

Betina Pauline	Betsy Emeline
Josephine Christine	Helmer Ebert
Thomas Ludwick	Stanford Bernard
John Albert	Louise Marie Allcott
Henry Cleophas	Claud Hiberg
Oscar Melvin	

Betina married S. K. Gregg, a newspaper man. He edited the paper in Lake Mills at one time, also in other places, started the Iowa Odd Fellow, in Des Moines. They then went west on account of Betina's health, but after a year or so returned and Betina died at her father's home. They had two children, a son who died in Washington, and a daughter, Florence, who married J. L. Reagan.



Josephine married Henry Neil, a newspaper man. They lived for a number of years at Madison, South Dakota, from where he was elected to the Legislature. They have four children. They now live at Aberdeen, South Dakota.

David Holland  
Bessie Marguerite

Henry Simpson  
Robert Bruce

David is married and has one child, Noel Darlene, 10 years old. Bessie married Harry W. Conover. They have one child, Lois Ann, six years old. They live at 30 Oak Park Drive, Mason City, Iowa.

---

### H. C. HOLLAND FAMILY

---

H. C. Holland married Anna Haugen. Their children are:

Charles Arthur Holland          Herbert B. Holland  
Clifford J. Holland

Charles Arthur Holland, graduated from Leland High School June 11, 1930. Wife Corretta Leegard. One child, Claire Arlan.

Herbert B. Holland, graduated from Leland High School and Waldorf College, B. S., Iowa State College. Is single and lives at home.

Clifford J. Holland, Leland High School.

---

### HENRY P. HOLLAND SR.

---

Settled in an early day in Fillmore county, Minnesota. Followed farming as an occupation. He married there and seven children were born to them: Michael, Christina, Hannah, Mary, Peter, Thomas and Tillie.

---

### Deaths Occurring the Last Year

John Louis, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Morton, who died at Great Falls, Montana, living only one day.

Daniel A. Reagan, who rendered services in compiling this History, having sent the manuscript to L. A. Jensen on the 18th day of July, 1932, requesting the same to be finally completed for printing and additions thereto. He died in August, 1932.

C. N. Charlson, surviving husband of Bertha M. Jensen, who died at Mercy Hospital, Mason City, March 3rd, 1933.

---

THE  
LIBRARY OF THE  
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
AND  
ZOOLOGY  
OF THE  
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

RECEIVED  
JAN 10 1900  
FROM THE  
LIBRARY OF THE  
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
AND  
ZOOLOGY  
OF THE  
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

RECEIVED  
JAN 10 1900  
FROM THE  
LIBRARY OF THE  
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
AND  
ZOOLOGY  
OF THE  
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

RECEIVED  
JAN 10 1900  
FROM THE  
LIBRARY OF THE  
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
AND  
ZOOLOGY  
OF THE  
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.















